

300°C, said coating being adhered to at least a resilient sealing bead portion of a metal gasket layer and having a coating thickness less than 100 microns which flows under compression to enhance the sealing ability of said sealing bead portion of said gasket by filling any cracks and fissures present a surface of said embossed sealing bead portion and a member against which said gasket layer seals.

Rewrite claim 6 as follows:

6 (Amended). A coating according to claim 1, characterised in that the coating contains more of the organic polymer binder by weight than of the chemically exfoliated vermiculite.

Rewrite claim 7 as follows:

7 (Amended). A coating according to claim 1, characterised in that the coating also comprises particles of a solid lubricant.

Rewrite claim 8 as follows:

8 (Amended). A coating according to claim 1, characterised in that the coating also comprises a flaky filler.

Rewrite claim 9 as follows:

9 (Amended). A coating according to claim 1, characterised in that the coating also comprises a supplementary inorganic binder.

Rewrite claim 11 as follows:

11 (Amended). A coating according to claim 1, characterised in that the coating also comprises a waterproofing agent acting on at least one of the chemically exfoliated vermiculite and the supplementary inorganic binder.

Rewrite claim 12 as follows:

12 (Amended). A coating according to claim 1, characterised in that the thickness of the

coating is equal to or less than 80 microns.

Rewrite claim 12 as follows:

13 (Amended). A coating according to claim 1, characterised in that the coating has a density of below 70% of the theoretical density of the material forming the coating.

Cancel claim 14.

Add the following claim:

15. A sealing-enhancing coating for a gasket or a portion of a gasket, characterised in that the coating comprises flack particles of chemically exfoliated vermiculite, at least 90% by weight of said particles having a thickness of no more than 30 microns, and no dimension greater than 1mm, the particles forming 10 to 90 wt% of the coating, the coating also comprising 50 to 10 wt% of an organic polymer binder which is heat resistant to at least 300°C; said coating including particles of solid lubricant.